

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 00094 201212Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAI-01 NIC-01 IO-10 /089 W

----- 093635

P R 200910Z JAN 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3108

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL KARACHI

CINCPAC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0094

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS - LEADERSHIP AND
IMPLICATIONS

REF: A. PEKING 0088 (NOTAL) B. HONG KONG 0675

1. IMAGE OF LEADERSHIP LINE-UP WITHIN THE STATE COUNCIL
WHICH EMERGED FROM THE FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS
IS ONE OF PRAGMATISM WITH STRONG PARTY CONTROL. CHOU
EN-LAI CONFOUNDED MOST OBSERVERS BY COMING BACK
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 00094 201212Z

STRONG AS PREMIER DESPITE HIS ILLNESS, AND UNDOUBTEDLY

HAD A BIG VOICE IN PICKING THE OTHER OFFICIALS. OF THE TWELVE VICE PREMIERS, ALL BUT FOUR ARE EITHER MEMBERS OR ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF THE POLITBURO, AND PARTY ELDERS CHEN YUN AND NIEH JUNG-CHEN, FORMER VICE PREMIERS, HAVE BEEN GIVEN HONORABLE BUT POWERLESS POSITIONS AS VICE CHAIRMEN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE STATE COUNCIL, BY ITS EXTENSIVE OVERLAP WITH THE POLITBURO, THUS APPEARS STRENGTHENED, AND WE MAY SEE A SORT OF SUPER CABINET WITH VARIOUS VICE PREMIERS OVERSEEING THE WORK OF KEY MINISTRIES.

2. AS POINTED OUT REF B, THERE WERE NOTABLE OMISSIONS OF POLITBURO MEMBERS FROM MAJOR STATE POSITIONS AS WELL. WANG TUNG-HSING (WHO LAST APPEARED AT LI FU-CHUN'S FUNERAL JANUARY 15), DID NOT APPEAR AT ALL, AND LI TEH-SHENG, WHO EARLIER THIS YEAR WAS THE TARGET OF HEAVY POSTER ATTACKS SEEMS TO HAVE SLIPPED AND MAY HAVE LOST HIS POSITION AS A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY. CHINA'S TWO LEADING CULTURAL FIGURES, CHIANG CHING AND YAO WEN-YUAN WERE NOT SELECTED FOR EITHER A VICE PREMIER SLOT NOR MINISTERS OF CULTURE OR EDUCATION. THE FORMER POST WENT TO YU HUI-YUNG, WHO PREVIOUSLY WAS A MEMBER OF WU TEH'S CULTURAL GROUP UNDER THE STATE COUNCIL. YU HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN GREETING FOREIGN VISITORS AND WAS INVOLVED IN THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIXON AND IN THE HEATH VISIT THIS YEAR. NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION CHOU JUNG-HSIN IS AN OLD LINE BUREAUCRAT WHO DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION WAS BRANDED A CAPITALIST ROADER AND AN ACCOMPLICE OF TAO CHU.

3. BELOW THE RANKS OF THE VICE PREMIERS, THE NEW MINISTERIAL APPOINTEES, WITH A FEW NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS, APPEAR TO COME FROM THE RANKS OF PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATORS. A NUMBER OF THEM HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN IDENTIFIED ONLY AS RESPONSIBLE PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE STATE COUNCIL. OF THE HOLDOVERS, THOSE ON WHOM WE HAVE INFORMATION OR WHOM WE HAVE MET COME FROM THE RANKS OF THE CIVILIAN PRAGMATISTS OR MILITARY TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS.

4. STRUCTURALLY, THE NPC DROPPED TWO EXISTING MINISTRIES,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PEKING 00094 201212Z

LABOR AND THE MINISTRY FOR THE ALLOCATION OF MATERIALS. TWO NEW ONES WERE CREATED, COAL INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION, AREAS WHICH HAVE PLAGUED CHINA'S ECONOMY DURING THE PAST YEAR. IN ADDITION, THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE, BOTH OF WHICH DISAPPEARED FOLLOWING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, WERE RESUSCITATED. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL FROM THE REPORTS, IT APPEARS THAT A NUMBER OF THE COMMISSIONS UNDER THE STATE COUNCIL MAY HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED.

5. WITH THE ADDITION OF TUNG PI-WU AND SOONG CHING-LING, WHO LOST THEIR POSITIONS AS VICE CHAIRMEN OF THE PRC WITH THE ABOLITION OF THOSE POSITIONS, PS63 4-, (OF VICE CHAIRMEN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NPC INCREASINGLY LOOK LIKE A GERIATRIC WARD. THE PRINCIPAL EXCEPTIONS ARE WU TEH AND SEVERAL OF THE BEST-KNOWN MINORITY NATIONALITY LEADERS. LI CHING-CHUAN, A FORMER POWER IN SZECHUAN, WAS RETURNED TO A DEGREE OF RESPECTABILITY BY HIS APPOINTMENT AS A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

6. IN SUM, THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT EMERGING FROM THE FOURTH NPC STRIKES US AS ORDER ORIENTED AND LONG ON TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. A SUCCESSION LINE-UP MAY HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE STATE COUNCIL WITH THE RANKING OF TENG HSIAO-PING AND CHANG CHUN-CHIAO AS NUMBER TWO AND THREE RESPECTIVELY AFTER CHOU EN-LAI. TENG, AFTER ALL, IS SEVENTY HIMSELF AND MAY WELL BE A TRANSITIONAL FIGURE. CHANG AT 63 APPEARS CLOSE TO CHOU AND MAY WELL BE HIS LONG TERM SUCCESSOR. THE PARTY WILL CLEARLY RESUME TIGHT CONTROL OVER THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND HUA KUO-FENG HAS BEEN NAMED THE MAN TO ENFORCE THAT CONTROL. THE LOSERS APPEAR TO BE THOSE PRESUMED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE LEFT AND THE MILITARY REGION COMMANDERS, ALL OF WHOM WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CHEN HSI-LIEN, APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN RELEGATED TO RELATIVELY POWERLESS POSITIONS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT APPARATUS. NOT ONLY DID PRESUMPTIVE RADICALS CHIANG CH'ING AND YAO WEN-YUAN FAIL TO SECURE GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS, AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL NONE OF THEIR IDENTIFIABLE SUPPORTERS DID K. AS NOTED, BOTH THE MINISTRIES OF CULTURE AND EDUCATION (AREAS WHERE CHIANG AND YAO HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN MOST ACTIVE) ARE HEADED BY INDIVIDUALS WHOSE HISTORY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PEKING 00094 201212Z

APPEARS TO LINK THEM WITH THE ESTABLISHED BUREAUCRACY. OF COURSE, POLITICAL POWER IN THE PRC IS GAUGED MORE BY PARTY THAN BY GOVERNMENT RANK, BUT ABSENCE OF GOVERNMENT RANK ENTAILS LACK OF DAY-TO-DAY CONTROL OVER POLICY IMPLEMENTATION. AS TO THE EXISTENCE OF A POWER CONTEST, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR HARLAND MET REWI ALLEY IN THE FRIENDSHIP STORE JANUARY 20 AND WAS TOLD THAT THERE HAD BEEN A "HELL OF A FIGHT BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS."

7. THE REACTION OF MAO TO ALL THIS AND HIS ROLE IN IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE AT THIS POINT. IN CONTRAST TO OUR EARLIER OBSERVATION (REF A) THAT THERE WAS A NOTABLE LACK OF REFERENCES TO THE CHAIRMAN IN THE EARLY NPC DOCUMENTS, ALTHOUGH PHYSICALLY NOT PRESENT HE HAS BEEN OMNIPRESENT SINCE. HIS PORTRAIT ADORNED THE Dais OF THE GREAT HALL

AND DOMINATED THE FRONT PAGE OF THE PEOPLE'S DAILY OF
JANUARY 19. CHANG CHUN-CHIAO'S REPORT ON
THE REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CONSTITUTION
ITSELF PAY HIM AMPLE OBEISANCE, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT
TO THE LEADING ROLE OF "MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT." IT MAY
BE THAT, WILLINGLY OR NOT, HE HAS BEEN ELEVATED TO SEMI-
DEITY STATUS. HE AND HIS "THOUGHT" HAVING BEEN SUITABLY
ENSHRINED, HIS PHYSICAL PRESENCE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN
CONSIDERED NECESSARY AND IT IS CJFCEIVABLE THAT A MOVE IS
NOW EVEN AFOOT TO GET THE CHINESE PEOPLE USED TO THE IDEA
OF A CHINA CARRYING ON WITHOUT MAO. RECENT FOREIGN
VISITORS HAVE NOTED HIS FRAILITY AND SIGNS OF ADVANCED AGE.
HOLDRIDGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY UNITY, GOVERNMENT REFORM, PARTY MEETINGS, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PEKING00094
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750020-1096
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750137/aaaabgjr.tel
Line Count: 182
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PEKING 0088, 75 (NOTAHONG KONG 0675
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS - LEADERSHIP AND IMPLICATIONS
TAGS: PINT, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006